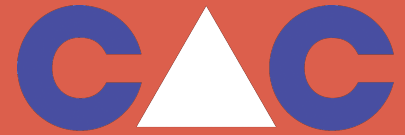




Eranyoy

Maasai
Men's Celebratory Song



Cultural Arts Centre
Tumaini University Makumira

Cultural Insights:

In Maasai culture, the morani (the warrior age group) return from a livestock raid at another village. Their new cows, goats, and sheep in trail, they arrive home and begin the celebrations. They sing and dance, commemorating their bravery and virility, boasting of their strength and ability to provide and protect. Livestock are the Maasai's most valuable possession, and they protect them at all costs. They have a belief that all livestock inherently belongs to them, so raiding another village and taking their livestock is not looked down upon in their eyes. This song is sung by men on the return of such an event, as well as the occasional party.

Musical Concepts:

Call and Response: In many musical traditions in Tanzania, the call and response format is widely used. The Maasai are no exception. Introduce this concept with different exercises such as speaking in turn, or telling a story with a common refrain sung/spoken by the listeners. Ask for examples of how call and response is used in everyday life through speech, listening, etc.

Variations: Another aspect of many Maasai songs is that the leading part is often varied depending on the singer and the mood. This is often done without much conscious thought, and when duplicating this effect, it should be done in a carefree, easy way. Practice this with a group by providing a simple melody with lyrics and asking individuals or small groups to come up with possible variations. Ask them to change one note, a few notes, the rhythm, the words, etc.

This is especially applicable in the solo voice part. Without giving much thought to the specific notes and rhythms one should sing, concentrate on the words and singing them in a way that they flow effortlessly into each other. Show the video of this song and notice how the lead singer only aims for consistency in the first and last note of the phrase, otherwise 'going with the flow.'

Keeping Rhythm with the Body: In many Maasai songs, jumping often accompanies and accentuates the song. The jumps are on the beat, accenting the first beat with a higher, more emphatic jump when needed. Sometimes as few as one person could be jumping in the middle, sometimes the whole group joins in to create excitement. In this song, the meter is asymmetric, with a combination of 5/8 and 7/8. The participants jump on the first beat of the following groupings: 2+3+3+2+1. See video for further example.



Eranyoy

Trad. Maasai

Transcribed by Megan Stubbs

Eeh - me ekh - he - me Eeh - me ekh - he - me

Solo Lyrics:

1. Tubulu yeyo memusi laing'ata endeke
2. Laawa ormurani aphi neya olkure
3. Enjiro oldakuti nang'ate endeke
4. Laleyo ooh laleyo oye laleyo
5. Kitaphetatye olkujita sapyo onya oltomya
6. Amuu ilolo ilmuran ilorbili etejoki engarna
7. Kinguso meleen nemelakwa
8. Nereye indare ositima
9. Enjiro endarasi lang'ata endeke
10. Pukoret aaiy nalutaki eltimi oroshi ingipha
11. Nanyeki ngashumba yeyo egini armanarye
12. Eling'ito ingereni asambu lomanaye
13. Pukoret aiyi tolimu Keenya osina linoto
14. Enining'o Keenya ilmelili lataranyaka

The solo part is quite varied melodically and rhythmically, the starting note is around the high E and it ends on the D an octave lower. In between it's up to you. Notated is one example.

The song can be repeated as many times as desired.

Based on a performance from Kimokowha Longido.

Links:

[Video of Eranyoy](#)



An example of some traditional Maasai women's jewelry



Maasai men jumping during a song

Credits:

Video/Audio recording:

Aliko Mwakanjuki & Gabriel Olodi

Background research:

Gabriel Olodi & Mercy Kimaro

Transcriptions:

Megan Stubbs

Translations:

Gabriel Olodi & Megan Stubbs

Curriculum design/formatting:

Megan Stubbs

Translations (Poetic)

Swahili:

Kiongozi: Kuwa ndugu yangu niliye kuepusha na majanga

Wote: *Hakuna tafsiri sahihi*

K: Taji aliyoshinda shujaa na moga

K: Mkiwa waoga niliwaokoa na majanga

K: Sawa sawa ndugu zangu

K: Tumeyapitia mengi magumu lakini tumeyashinda

K: Lakini wale mashujaa wataitwa watoto

K: Tumewapiga bila kuwajua na tumewashinda

K: Tukawachukua kondoo zao wakiongozwa na gegedu

K: Mkuwe milele wote niliwaokoa na majanga

K: Ng'ombe wangu asiyenilaza akojoaye kwenye majani mabichi enye Baraka

K: Weupe wa mama yangu wanitiaye ari kuwatafuta

K: Langu dume lenye mistari meupe na meusi la kujidai naye

K: Kipenzi change sema adha ulizokutana nazo

K: Yasikie sasa maeneo nilyo tamba

English:

Call: Live, my relatives who I have saved from danger

Response: *No translation*

C: The crown that the bravest deserves

R: When you were afraid I saved you from the danger

C: Yes, yes my relatives!

R: We have gone through many hard times but we are victorious

C: But those that thought they were brave will be called children

R: We fought them without knowing them and we won

C: We took their sheep; the ram led them

C: Be forever all you who I saved from dangers

C: My cow that I can't sleep for, who urinates in the fresh grass full of blessings

C: The white ones for my mother who give me desire to find them

C: My bull with white and black lines, my boasting bull

C: My lover, say what promises you have received

C: Let them hear the places that I've conquered.



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